

I want to thank Mr. BRAD MILLER and Mr. MEL WATT for sponsoring this important legislation and for being a champion for consumers and borrowers. I also want to thank Chairman FRANK for his commitment to finally bringing real reform to our mortgage markets and ending predatory lending and misleading and abusive lending practices.

I served for 8 years on the House Financial Services Committee with my colleagues and we repeatedly warned the, then majority, Republicans, the Bush Administration, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve about the need for stronger oversight and critical reforms that would end the pattern and practice of predatory lending.

Our warnings fell on deaf ears.

They chose to allow kickback schemes like yield spread premiums which put the mortgage lender's financial incentives in direct conflict with the interests of the consumers they are supposed to serve.

They chose to allow the reprehensible act of "steering" lower income, senior and minority borrowers into higher rate sub-prime and alt-a loans than they qualify for.

They chose to blindly trust financial institutions to "regulate themselves".

And we and our entire nation know where that got us.

It is long past time that we bring sound, reasonable regulation and oversight to our mortgage markets.

And this bill will do that.

I am also very pleased that this bill will protect renters and tenants who have been silently suffering due to the wave of foreclosures.

Too many renters who have paid their rent on time have been finding out for the first time that the property they live in is being foreclosed when the sheriff delivers an eviction notice.

Innocent tenants should be protected and let me thank Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. WATT and Mr. FRANK for acting on behalf of innocent renters.

I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1728.

DR. MELINDA O'ROURKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Melinda O'Rourke who has received the Golden Ethics in Business award. Dr. Melinda O'Rourke is an ophthalmologist and Vision Health International volunteer and received this award because of her sense of global and local volunteerism and dedication to bettering the lives of those from all social classes and nations through health care.

The devotion demonstrated by Dr. Melinda O'Rourke directly benefits her community and many throughout the world, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. She serves as a leader who inspires those around her to continually strive for better health care, both for those who can afford it and for those who cannot.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Dr. Melinda O'Rourke for winning the

Golden Ethics in Business award. I have no doubt she will continue to exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her volunteer career to all future undertakings.

MAY: WORLD TRADE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, May is World Trade Month, and events around the country will highlight the vital role that trade plays in creating jobs and growing our economy.

World Trade Month is the perfect reminder of the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long. As Americans confront economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance our trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama, Colombia, and Korea to remain on hold while Europe, China, and others continue to knock down trade barriers and become more competitive in the global economy.

Opening new global markets gives employers incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my State of Washington.

Let's recognize World Trade Month by implementing these trade agreements and pursuing these proven measures of job creation at a time when they are badly needed.

COST/PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a former chemical manufacturing site being cleaned up by the U.S. Army near Denver, CO. The Cost/Productivity Improvement Program is an innovative effort instituted by the Army and Shell Oil Company, who are responsible for the cleanup of the site. The Program encourages employees to be proactive in improving the efficiency, safety, and quality of the transition of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal into a premier urban national wildlife refuge.

Construction and fieldwork are due to be completed in 2010, one year ahead of schedule and within budget. This achievement is due in no small part to cost savings suggestions by employees that were implemented through the Cost/Productivity Program under the leadership of the Army, Shell and their contractors. Not only has the program resulted in a savings of \$67 million dollars over 10 years, with \$4.5 million saved last year alone, it is an innovative example of a successful public-private partnership. The program has resulted in the promotion of "green" practices, including recycling and native vegetation re-seeding.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program and the Army, Shell and their employees and contractors at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. I have no doubt this program will continue to improve practices, while continuing to inspire employees and workers as they complete the environmental restoration and transformation of the site into a national wildlife refuge for generations of Americans to enjoy.

SUPPORT FOR THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 IN HONOR OF DR. XIANGZHONG "JERRY" YANG

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare my support for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2009. I intend to cast this vote in honor of the efforts of Dr. Xiangzhong "Jerry" Yang, a pioneer in cloning and stem cell research, who died of cancer three weeks ago at the age of 49. Dr. Yang left a great legacy of hard work, dedication, and success on the front lines of stem cell research. His work has led to a series of breakthroughs that have taken us closer to the dream of cloning stem cells to match an individual and cure the individual's disease, a breakthrough that would bring hope to countless men, women, and children who are suffering from otherwise untreatable illnesses.

The Yang laboratory, stationed at the University of Connecticut, is the world's leading laboratory in animal cloning and stem cell technology. Dr. Yang and his team provided critical insights into the previously mysterious mechanisms of how germ cells are programmed to form embryos, and how these embryos form distinct types of tissue. He was instrumental in working with then-Connecticut State Senator CHRIS MURPHY (now my colleague Representative MURPHY) to establish the Connecticut State Stem Cell Research Program, one of the very few such programs in the Nation. Because of the program's existence, Connecticut was one of the few states that would fund human embryonic stem cell research that could not be funded by the Federal Government. Just this year, the University of Connecticut announced the derivation of two new human embryonic stem cell lines as a result of these research funds. This breakthrough, along with many others, would not have happened without Jerry's influence and guidance.

Dr. Yang's ultimate dream to tailor stem cell cloning to specific people, organs, and diseases has not yet been realized, but with the help of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, we may yet reach the world he envisioned: One in which organ damage from cancer, heart attacks, spinal disorders, or any other conceivable illness can be reversed with stem cell therapy. I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in applauding the work of Dr. Yang: he will be sorely missed, but the important work he has done deserves all the recognition and support this body can offer.